(B) **Measures taken by RBI:**

1. **Increase in Liquidity to the banks for improving credit flow, by:**

   (i) Reducing CRR, SLR, Repo rate and Reverse Repo rate (from Oct '08, CRR reduced from 9% to 5%, SLR reduced from 25% to 24%, Repo Rate reduced from 7.5% to 4.75%, and Reverse Repo Rate reduced from 6% to 3.25%);

   (ii) Refinance facility to the EXIM Bank for an amount of Rs. 5000 crores for providing pre-shipment and post-shipment credit in Rs. or dollars;

   (iii) A special re-finance facility has been put in place for banks for the purpose of extending finance to exports, micro and small enterprises, mutual funds and NBFCs. Provisioning requirements have been lowered. Export Credit Refinance facility for commercial banks increased to 50% of the outstanding Rupee Export Credit.

2. **Increase in FOREX Liquidity:**

   (i) RBIs assurance for continued selling of foreign exchange (US $) through banks, to augment supply in the domestic foreign exchange market;

   (ii) Ceiling rates on export credit in foreign currency has been raised to LIBOR + 350 basis points subject to the condition that the banks will not levy any other charges, i.e., service charge, management charge, etc. except for recovery towards out of pocket expenses incurred.

   (iii) RBI decided to provide FOREX liquidity to Indian Public and Private Sector Banks upto June 30, 2009, through forex swaps of tenure upto 3 months.

3. **Easing of Credit Terms:**

   (i) The period of pre-shipment and post-shipment Rupee Export Credit enhanced by 90 days each;

   (ii) Time period of export realization for non-status holder exporters increased to 12 months, at par with the Status holders. This facility which was available upto 3.6.09, has been extended for one more year.

   (iii) PSU Banks consequent to measures announced by RBI reduced the margin money on Guarantees for export units.

Trade through Wagah Border

447. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of import/export of various items through Wagah Border in Punjab;

(b) the estimated value of imports and exports between India and Pakistan through Wagah Border during the last one year, itemwise; and

(c) whether Government have banned some items from Pakistan due to security reasons and if so, details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): Details are as per the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Government has not banned any items through Wagah Border from Pakistan.

Statement

Details of import and export through Wagah Border for the year 2008-09

Import

Sl. No.	Item	Quantity (in MT)	Value (in lakh)
1.	Almond Kernel	1403	4266
2.	Almond H/Shell	2138	1766
3.	Almond S/Shell	317.6	705.39
4.	Raisin Green	1681	1340.97
5.	Raisin Black	1228	807.09
6.	Raisin Red	7.8	6.4
7.	Abjosh (golden raisins)	3460	2901
8.	Figs Dry	4236	13920
9.	Apricot Dry	2807	3933.72
10.	Apricot Kernel	11	16.89
11.	Pista Kernel	2532	10634
12.	Pomegranate	20765	868
13.	Melon	725	120
14.	Pine nuts/Chilgoza	58	440
15.	Grapes	7.7	1.43
16.	Plum dry	73	11.41
	TOTAL :	41450.1	41738.3

Export

Sl. No.	Item	Quantity (in MT)	(Value in lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Fresh potatoes	90763	5704
2.	Fresh Onions	89575	10640.68
3.	Fresh Tomatoes	101221	10210
4.	Indian Raw Cotton	14695	11319

1	2	3	4
5.	Buffalo Meat	755	659
6.	Biscuits	10005	3773
7.	Maize	12823	1333
8.	Garlic	140	10.15
	TOTAL :	319977	43648.83
	TOTAL TRADE :	361427.1	85387.13

FTA with ASEAN countries

448. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sign FTA with ASEAN countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that ASEAN countries are not agreeing to liberalise its services industry as has been proposed by India;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to reduce the trade deficit with ASEAN once the agreement is signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Negotiations for the Trade in Goods Agreement under the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and the ASEAN have been concluded. The Agreement will be signed after approval by concerned Governments.

(c) and (d) Negotiations for Services Agreement are underway.

(e) After the signing and implementation of the Agreement, all Parties, including India, are likely to benefit from tariff liberalisation.

Impact of global recession on WTO deliberations

449. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that world wide recession and slow down has impacted on ongoing WTO deliberation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government reviewed its stand on agriculture in WTO; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The global economic crisis has occupied centrestage at most major international meetings in the recent past. While trade has contracted globally as a result,